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10/607,842	06/27/2003	Oliver H. Foehr	Z2002-702319	8471

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Z2002

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EXAMINER

MILIA, MARK R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/16/2009

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@ll-a.com  
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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/607,842	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FOEHR ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Mark R. Milia	<b>Art Unit</b> 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 25-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 25-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/4/09 has been entered. Currently, claims 1-6 and 25-35 are pending.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 5/4/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that Matsuo (US 6,831,752) fails to disclose setting a parameter of each respective item of the first plurality of items of the standard user interface data structure to a value that hides the respective item from view of a user. The examiner respectfully disagrees as Matsuo does disclose such a feature. Particularly, Matsuo shows that a user can customize the look and feel of a driver screen, specifically whether or not to display a certain setting or plurality of settings. When the user selects not to display a particular setting item the item will not appear on

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the driver screen. However, the setting item will be “gray” in the customization window and only the customization window will not appear at all in the driver screen for that particular user. Independent claims 1 and 6 merely state that the item be hidden from view of a user. Matsuo discloses this because when the customized driver screen is displayed selected item(s) to not be displayed will not appear on the screen.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 30 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The claim appears to be incomplete as it merely states the limitation of claim 29 from which it depends and does not end in a period.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuo (US 6,831,752) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0163660 to Iwai.

Regarding claims 1 and 6, Matsuo discloses a method and computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium, for customizing a standard user interface associated with a universal printer driver comprising the steps of: associating each item of a first plurality of items of a standard user interface data structure with a respective first object of a first plurality of first objects, each first object of the first plurality of first objects having a first object interface (see Figs. 7-10 and column 3 lines 2-11 and 19-24, standard user interface is the interface displayed to the user prior to the user making any changes/modifications/customizations, the plurality of items being such things as paper size, pages per sheet, orientation, etc., which are part of the object paper), associating each item of a second plurality of items of a customized user interface to with a respective second object of a second plurality of second objects, each second object of the second plurality of second objects having a second object interface (see Figs. 7-10 and column 3 lines 2-11 and 19-24, customized user interface is the interface displayed to the user after the user makes changes/modifications, the plurality of items being such things as paper size, pages per sheet, orientation, etc., which are part of the object paper), linking each respective first object of the first plurality of first objects to a respective second object of the second plurality of second objects through a software interface, the software interface facilitating communication between the each respective first and second object that are linked together by linking

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the first object interface of the respective first object to the second object interface of the respective second object (see column 4 lines 51-62 and column 4 lines 1-21, reference states that a user can change a variety of settings and save such settings, thereby having a plurality of sets of settings for one device utilizing only one device driver, the user interfaces that are displayed to the user, whether it is the standard user interface of the customized user interface utilize the same device driver therefore the objects are linked because the same device driver is used to perform printing, based on the settings of either the standard user interface or customized user interface), setting a parameter of each respective item of the first plurality of items of the standard user interface data structure to a value that hides the respective item from view of a user (see column 3 lines 50-54 and column 5 lines 2-6), displaying the customized user interface (see Figs. 7-10), and extending a rendering capability of the universal printer driver (see Fig. 3 and column 3 lines 28-32).

Matsuo does not disclose expressly extending a rendering capability of the universal printer driver by associating object type information with a banding bitmap of the universal printer driver, the banding bitmap for use in rendering image information.

Iwai discloses extending a rendering capability of the universal printer driver by associating object type information with a banding bitmap of the universal printer driver, the banding bitmap for use in rendering image information (see paragraphs 87-89 and 92-93, print data is rendered in units of bands)

Matsuo & Iwai are combinable because they are from similar fields of endeavor, universal print drivers.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the banding bitmap rendering of image data, as described by Iwai, and which is well known and commonly used in the art, with the system of Matsuo.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to increase processing speed and decrease the amount of printer memory necessary by limiting the size of image data to that of a band and processing a plurality of bands to complete an entire print job.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Iwai with Matsuo to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1 and 6.

Regarding claim 2, Matsuo further discloses wherein the step of displaying comprises accessing a definition file, the definition file comprising information related to the customized user interface (see Figs. 12 and 14, column 3 lines 2-11 and 19-24, column 4 lines 1-4, and column 6 lines 38-50, reference shows that a user can change the screen configuration and the items that are to be displayed, which is analogous to a definition file).

Regarding claim 3, Matsuo further discloses wherein the information related to the customized user interface comprises at least one additional item compatible with the standard user interface structure (see column 3 lines 2-24, reference states certain settings rarely change, such as port settings).

Regarding claim 4, Matsuo further discloses the step of filtering at least one item of the standard user interface data structure prior to the displaying step (see column 3 lines 50-54 and column 5 lines 2-6).

Regarding claim 5, Matsuo further discloses wherein the filtering step comprises writing to a file, the file comprising data related to a state of at least one constant, the state of the at least one constant being determinative of inclusion in the standard user interface data structure (see column 3 lines 12-18, constants are things such as port settings and share settings that rarely change).

6. Claims 25-26 and 28-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuo and Iwai as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,053,895 to Yamagata et al.

Regarding claims 25 and 26, Iwai discloses generating a tagging bitmap, the tagging bitmap having substantially similar boundaries as the banding bitmap of the universal printer driver (see paragraphs 87-89 and 92-93, print data is rendered in units of bands), intercepting a drawing call to the banding bitmap, the drawing call comprising a drawing function and an object type related to the drawing function (see paragraphs 100 and 103-104, intermediate print data is created from received print data that adds information regarding information such as size or paper, orientation, margins, color information etc.), storing the object type associated with the drawing call in the tagging bitmap (see paragraph 110), and incorporating the object type stored in the tagging bitmap with the image information of the banding bitmap to render a final output (see



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paragraphs 87-89 and 92-93, actual-data-for-printing is created from the intermediate print data that contains information regarding color and other parameters).

Matsuo and Iwai do not disclose expressly performing error correction of the object type stored in the tagging bitmap.

Yamagata discloses performing error correction of the object type stored in the tagging bitmap (see column 5 line 62-column 6 line 5 and column 14 line 63-column 15 line 2, reference states that during image processing error/color correction may be performed).

Matsuo, Iwai, & Yamagata are combinable because they are from similar fields of endeavor, image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the error correction, as described by Yamagata, and which is well known and commonly used in the art, with the system of Matsuo and Iwai.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to correct errors that may occur during image/data capture to thereby create the best possible reproduction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yamagata with Matsuo and Iwai to obtain the invention as specified in claims 25 and 26.

Regarding claim 28, Yamagata further discloses wherein the step of performing error correction comprises performing error correction related to raster operation functions (see column 5 line 62-column 6 line 5).

Regarding claim 29, Yamagata further discloses wherein the step of storing comprises storing information related to a half-tone filter (see column 6 line 1, reference states that during image processing halftone processing may be performed).

Regarding claim 30, Yamagata further discloses, wherein the information related to the half-tone filter (see column 6 line 1, reference states that during image processing halftone processing may be performed).

Regarding claim 31, Iwai further discloses wherein the step of storing comprises storing information related to color management (see paragraphs 100 and 103-104, intermediate print data is created from received print data that adds information regarding information such as size or paper, orientation, margins, color information etc.).

Regarding claim 32, Iwai further discloses wherein the color management relates to converting from an input color space to an output color space on a pixel-by-pixel basis (see paragraphs 93, 103, 104, and 165, color data is stored on a pixel basis therefore it is obvious that conversion would take place on a pixel basis as well).

Regarding claim 33, Iwai further discloses wherein the color management relates to black-generation (see paragraph 194).

Regarding claim 34, Iwai further discloses wherein the object type stored in the tagging bitmap facilitates white space skipping (see paragraphs 101-104, color data is stored on a pixel basis and from which line data is created utilizing pixel count in both the x and y direction and to create "band" size print data thereby facilitating white space skipping).

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Regarding claim 35, Iwai further discloses wherein the object type stored in the tagging bitmap facilitates transition determination (see paragraph 194, color space conversion for color printing or conversion for monochrome printing is determined and based on the determination the appropriate image processing is performed to create print data).

7. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuo, Iwai, and Yamagata as applied to claim 26 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,046,818 to Ratnaker et al.

Matsuo, Iwai, and Yamagata do not disclose expressly a step of preprocessing the image information of the banding bitmap by alpha-blending a watermark image with the image information.

Ratnaker discloses a step of preprocessing the image information of the banding bitmap by alpha-blending a watermark image with the image information (see column 4 lines 44-47).

Matsuo, Iwai, Yamagata & Ratnaker are combinable because they are from a similar field of endeavor, image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the watermarking, as described by Ratnaker, and which is well known and commonly used in the art, with the system of Matsuo, Iwai, and Yamagata.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to prevent or discourage unauthorized use of an image.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ratnaker with Matsuo, Iwai, and Yamagata to obtain the invention as specified in claim 27.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571)272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached at (571) 272-7437. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark R. Milia  
Examiner  
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